

CONFIDENTIAL8RE FLD
542CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany 25X1 REPORTTOPIC Soviet River Crossing Practices at HAVELBERG and on the 25X1
Dosse River.EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT 25X1DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 18 November 1949REFERENCES 25X1PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1REMARKS 25X1**RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY**

1. The following observations were made with troops engaged in river-crossing practices at the Havel River near HAVELBERG (M 53/Y 97):

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Engineer boats on the Havel River laid smoke screens over HAVELBERG and the area between there and JEDERITZ (M 53/Y 97) between 10 and 11 a.m. The smoke screen was so dense it made aircraft circling over HAVELBERG invisible. The construction of a pontoon bridge was started at 11 a.m. Tank, armored reconnaissance, antiaircraft, artillery and other motorized units assembled on the HAVELBERG-JEDERITZ road. The construction of the bridge was completed about 1 p.m., and the units assembled on the southern bank of the Havel River crossed the bridge without incident, moving towards the "Weinberge" east of HAVELBERG.

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The bridge was disassembled by about 6 p.m., and the troops left the HAVELBERG area.

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2. 25X1 large Soviet units practiced crossing of the Dosse River near NEUSTADT (N 53/Z 18) for two days in late September 1949. It was said that large tank and air units participated in the exercises.

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25X1 telephone lines were constructed in the HAVELBERG area one week before the observed exercise.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 23 October 1979 from the Director of State Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

DECLASSIFIED

Class: CHANGED TO: TS S C

Auth: DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77 25X1

Date: 26 MAY 1978 By

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Large-scale river-crossing practices were previously reported to have been held by combined-arms units, including engineer units, in the HAVELBERG area*. These practices are believed to have been held in connection with the maneuvers conducted by Third Shock Army units in the area south and east of WITFENBERGE in late September 1949 and early October 1949. Indications are that these may have been the final field exercises of the Third Shock Army. The reported motor vehicle [REDACTED] (observed only with the staff directing the river-crossing exercise) indicate that, besides Third Shock Army units, component units of the Second Gds Mecz Army may have participated in the exercise (as observers or as simulated enemy?).

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